

re: 'Clear Channel  
Communications';  
Commissioner  
Jonathan Adelstein  
FCC; FILED/ACCEPTED  
NOV - 2 2006

David J. Mills  
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94904

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
Dear Commissioner:

September 10, '06  
06-121

American culture has been evolving rapidly these last years and there are some dubious trends. Chief among these is the supporting of, totally based, with "nation-wide" cultural activities. Every highway view across the nation boasts a few good examples of these, but now the car radio does too.

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"Clear Channel Communications Corporation" are the new vikings of the entertainment world on FM and AM... In the San Francisco Bay Area, they have purchased

(that has been talked about) is the pre-recorded and remote broadcast. This is what it sounds like of course: an entirely pre-recorded radio shift of many hours - which may be satellite downloaded to many different actual stations. Certainly this is financially advantageous, for my company that may employ the technique. One DJ, many cities.

But don't try to call in to ask about program changes - as I did one evening. My favorite Brazilian Jazz hour had disappeared off a Clear Channel station without explanation. And no wonder... All the hours up to and including these were prerecorded.

No one at all was in the station to answer the phone either - when I called. They had long since de-listed the "on air" line to discourage public commentary (in the name of efficiency I suppose)...

Their station, "KKSF" has been parrotting a single version of the call letters about six or more times an hour, in between 'smooth jazz' and r and b' oldies... As if we didn't all know. And the saddest part of all... People in the area are so starved for good music that they actually put up with this ultra formulized version of the original ground breaking and progressive station. Now - nuns

several of the most successful  
and progressive youth stations -  
only to strip them of creative  
and original staff and independent  
programming... (plundered...).

Both "Live 105", and "KTEL",  
our leading Hip Hop station,  
were cutting edge conduits  
for new music and topical,  
community based commentaries.

Now both stations are attempting  
to emulate their original for-  
mats without the creative on air  
staffers that made their successes.  
Locally based talk is just gone,  
and opportunities for new artists  
are so slim as to be unavailable to  
most. The music mix, of course, formulaic.

Another Clear Channel M.O.

live D.J.s; and featuring an odd mix of newer 'jazz like', and very overplayed 60's - 80's Motown ballads, the station is as close as we get to a commercial 'progressive' music outlet here...!

A friend and co-worker had been on our number one boyored hip hop station's morning personality crew. He described their success - and then the subsequent 'house cleaning' that occurred after Clear Channel took over. Another leading commentator from their line up has moved on to non-profit radio, and often appears as an emcee at local events. This is a well spoken, measured and interesting speaker who should still be on his community's leading station; a major talent.

But politics - no matter how  
despised or locally vital -  
is taboo from most (if not all)  
Clear Channel Radio; and even  
live performances. Imagine the  
pop artists of the sixties and  
seventies, stripped of anything  
political or similarly suggestive...

Bob Dylan would still be  
performing in coffee houses!  
The problem with Clear  
Channel (and others like them)  
is simple ...

Stripping radio stations  
of their local personalities; creative  
control; and access (of all kinds)  
puts an enormous filter between  
communities and their listening  
options. This new structure

Stymies the possibility for radio to accurately reflect its own area's talent pool and interests.

It stops new music dead in its tracks at the door. Their content must be carefully market tested and subject to micro-management from above. New music is introduced slowly and complexity is avoided... Hit potential appears to be the major criterion... In other words - nothing "too subtle" or "too innovative"... Local talk hardly exists; definitely not of a left of center perspective, even if that is the regional preference!

Worst yet, is that they appear to target mostly the best of what commercial radio already exists in an area. They take over; and

make fake and de-humanized  
replications of the best we have  
- sort of like a sci-fi factory  
nightmare. leaving dozens of  
out of work, creative on-air  
personalities un-employed, in  
cities everywhere, and loyal  
fans pining for some wondering:  
"when will this real life night-  
mare end?" "What can bring back  
the heart to American radio; and  
the humanity?" Sincerely,

David D. McRae

references:

[www.daveyd.com](http://www.daveyd.com): "Hip Hop  
and the Politics of Radio".